



GOT THE LAST OF THE
SLIMSUCKERS BOOKED.
GOT HERE AS SOON
AS I COULD.



IF WE'RE TAKING THE
AFTERNOON OFF, THOUGH,
I'D RATHER GO TO THE
PICTURE SHOW.

THE OLD MAN WANTS US TO
FOLLOW UP ON THIS ARTIST
FELLA, WILCOX.

OUGHT TO
ARREST HIM
JUST FOR THIS
MONSTROSITY



INSPECTOR... I THINK MR WILCOX IS IN
TROUBLE--HE WON'T OPEN HIS
DOOR...AND HE SOUNDS ILL.

WHAT?!!
BLAST!



HE'S LIKELY GONE
OUT THE WINDOW
BY NOW.

"I'LL ANNOUNCE YOU"
MY ARSE! SHOULD'VE
KNOWN BETTER!



WILCOX! OPEN THE
BLASTED DOOR! I CAN
HEAR YOU IN THERE.

MMMM-NNNNNNNNNN

MMMM-NNNNNNNNNN

MMMM-NNNNNNNNNN



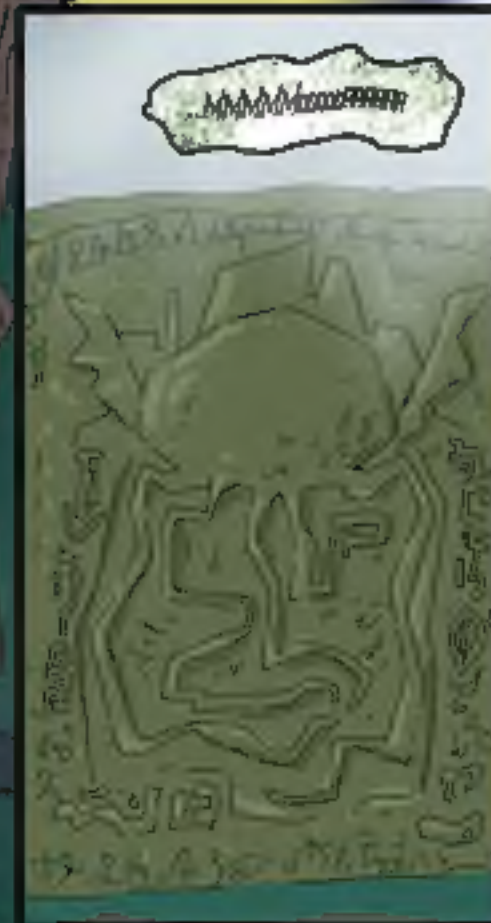
I'M GETTING GOOD AND
TIRED OF PEOPLE
CALLING ME HOWARD.



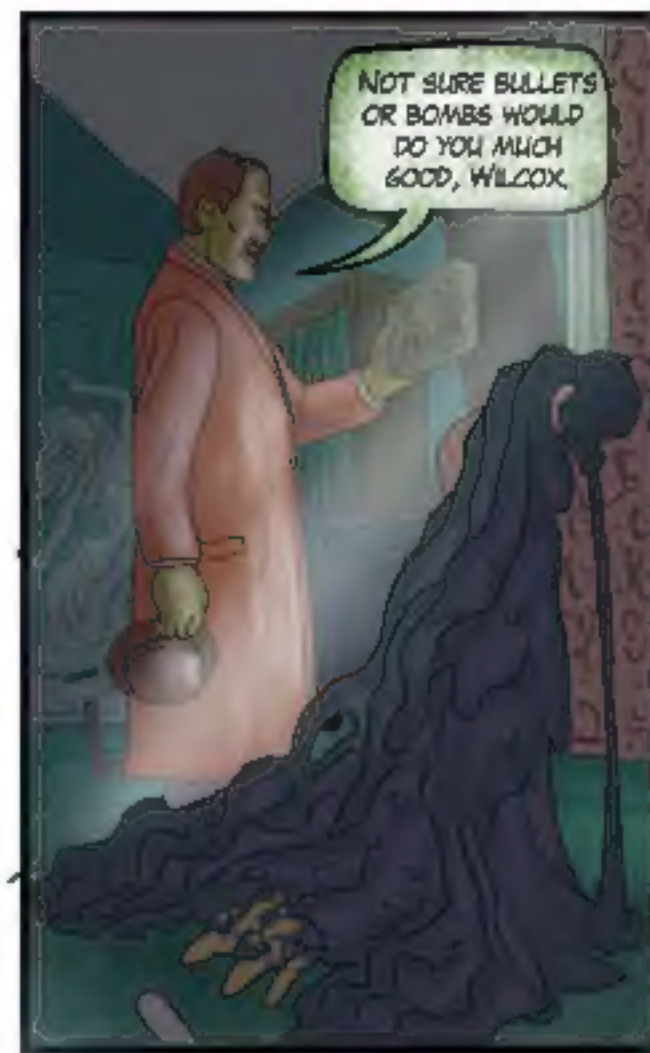
HOLY MOTHER
OF GOD!

MMM-MMMBBEE...

...WHIIIEEE...MM-NNNNNNNNNN



MMMM-NNNNNNNNNN



NOTHING...NOTHING...

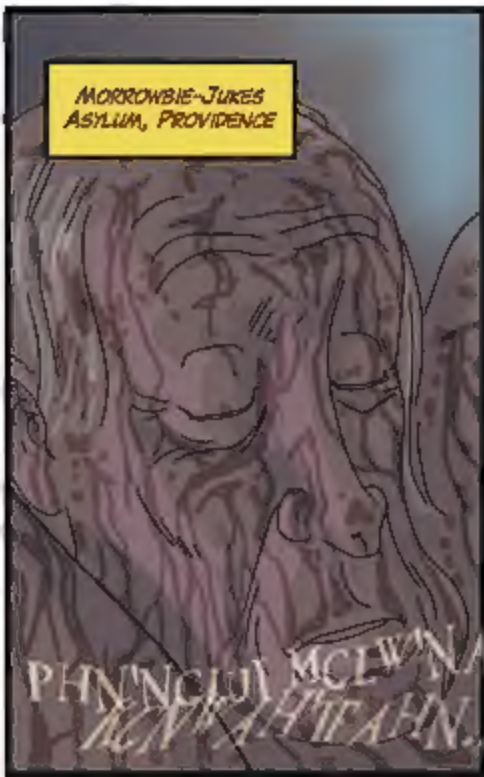
THERE MUST BE
SOMETHING IN
THE RECORDS...

...SOMEWHERE...

...SOMEWHERE...

AH...THIS WILL
HAVE TO DO.

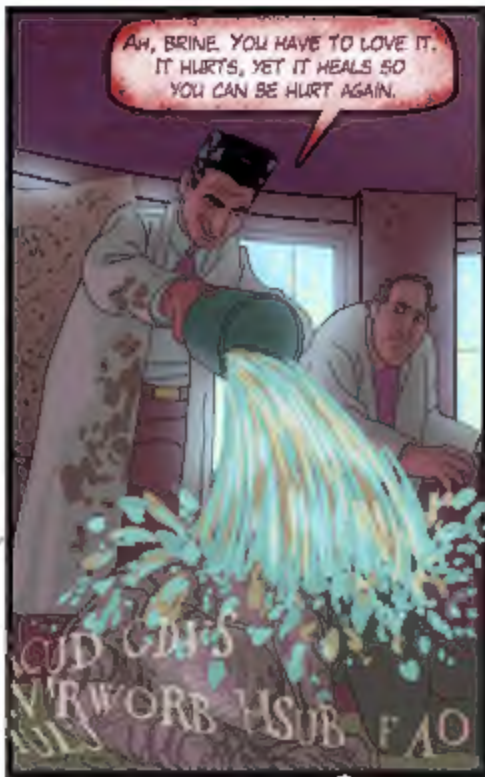
I CAN MAKE IT WORK IN
SPITE OF THE POOR
TRANSLATION. "GOAT WITH
A HUNDRED YOUNG."
REALLY.



MORROWBIE-JUKES
ASYLUM, PROVIDENCE



JUST DUMP HIM
ANYWHERE YOU CAN
FIND A SPACE.



AH, BRINE. YOU HAVE TO LOVE IT.
IT HURTS, YET IT HEALS SO
YOU CAN BE HURT AGAIN.



SIT HIM UP AT THE
TABLE AND GET BACK
TO WORK, YOU
IDIOT APE BEFORE---



Aaarrrckk...
Glutthhk--gg



RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES. COMING BACK
IS DIFFICULT..BUT..
IT'S ALWAYS MY...
FAVORITE PART...



AND I BELIEVE I'VE FOUND
A WAY TO YET EXTRACT
YOUR SECRETS, PROFESSOR.

I'LL NEED ASHES, SEVERAL
LARGE BATTERIES, COPPER
TUBING AND ANIMAL FAT.
A LOT. ABOUT TEN POUNDS.



WE HAVE EVERYTHING BUT
THE FAT. THERE'S A BUTCHERY
ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN.

DON'T BE DULL,
KRESKIN....



THE CHANT IS
ALMOST OVER.

THEY'LL DO
JUST FINE.



COME. THE FINAL
DETAILS ARE THE
MOST IMPORTANT.

...UH, YES,
CERTAINLY,
BUT THE
MACHINES...

SHOULDN'T WE BE
MAKING THE FINAL
ADJUSTMENTS?



THE MACHINES ARE
FINISHED. HALSEY
IS PREPARING THEM
FOR TRANSFER AS
WE SPEAK.

BUT YOU SAID—
THEN WHAT ARE THE
NOTES FOR?



NEVER PUT ALL
YOUR EGGS IN THE
SINGLE BASKET,
MARIPOSA.



THE GREAT WORK MUST
NOT BE COMPROMISED.
THERE IS SOMETHING
YOU AREN'T TELLING ME.

AH, YES. THE
"GREAT WORK."

BRINGING ENLIGHTENMENT
AND TRUTH TO THE WORLD.
WE ARE VERY NOBLE
AND SELFLESS, YES?



BUT I ASK MYSELF, WHAT
IF THE HUMAN MIND IS
NOT READY FOR SUCH?

WHOEVER WROTE THESE
NOTES AND FORMULAE
LOOKED BEYOND THE FRINGES OF
REALITY, TO AN OUTER WORLD.
OF MONSTERS...OR GODS?



BEFORE WE UNLEASH THE MIND
OF A GOD ON THE EARTH, SHOULD
WE NOT BE PREPARED? SHOULD
WE NOT KNOW HOW TO CONSTRAIN
A GOD?

AND WITH THE HELP OF
OUR UNKNOWN GENIUS
HERE, WHO BETTER TO
CONTROL IT THAN WE?



NO ONE, ACTUALLY, THOUGH
COUNT ST. GERMAIN MAY
FEEL DIFFERENTLY.

THE COUNT! FAH! DO YOU
REALLY BELIEVE HE SEEKS
ENLIGHTENMENT?



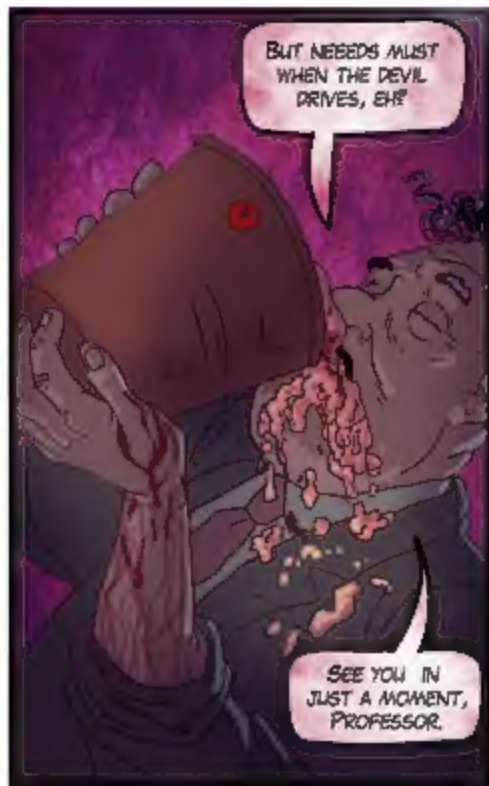
NO. HE HAS OTHER GOALS WHICH
HE DOES NOT SHARE WITH US.
IT IS IN OUR BEST INTERESTS TO
HAVE THE BACK-UP PLAN. BETTER
STILL TO HAVE SEVERAL

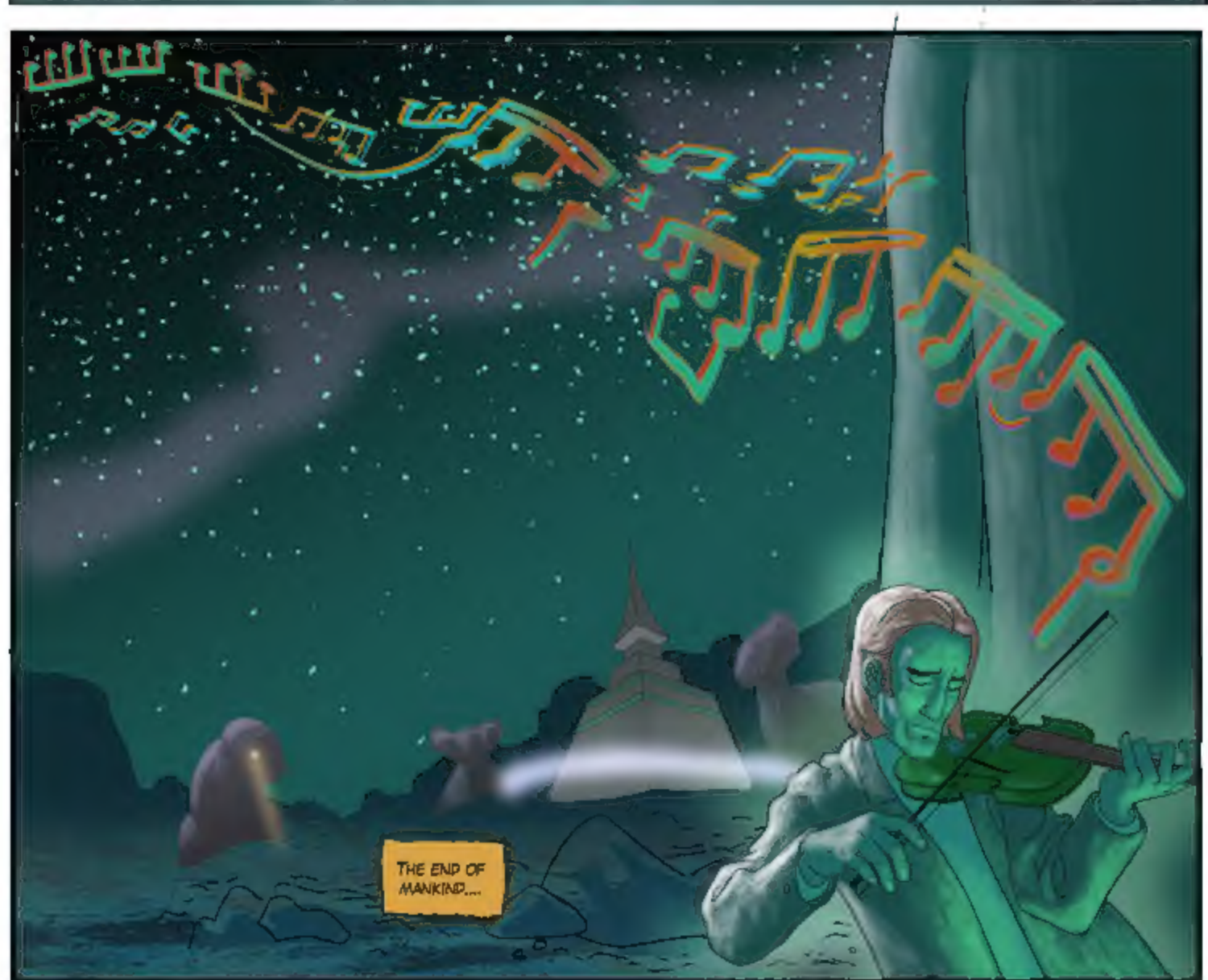
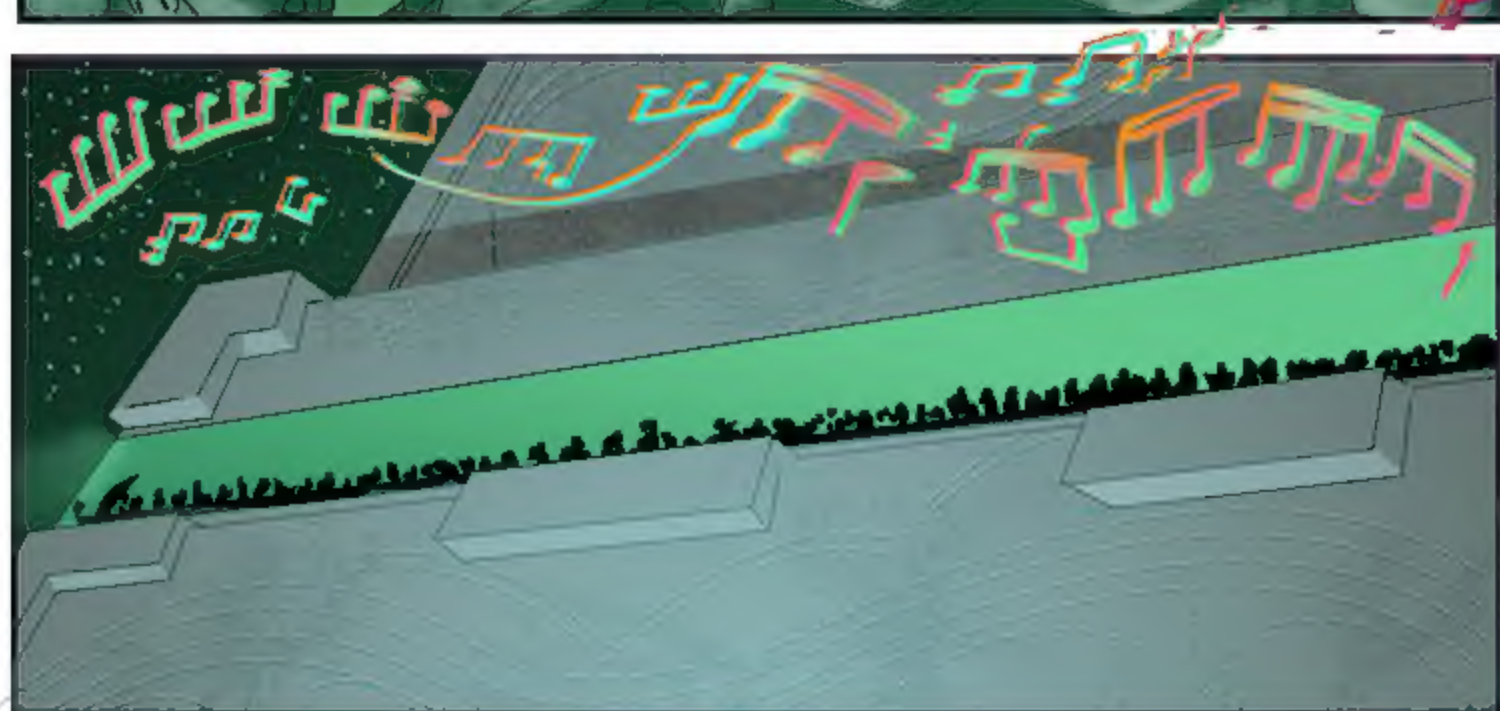
AFTER ALL, I MIGHT HAVE
REALLY MISSED THOSE SMALL
ERRORS IN THESE FORMULAE
HAD I NOT EAVESDROPPED ON
YOUR CONVERSATION.

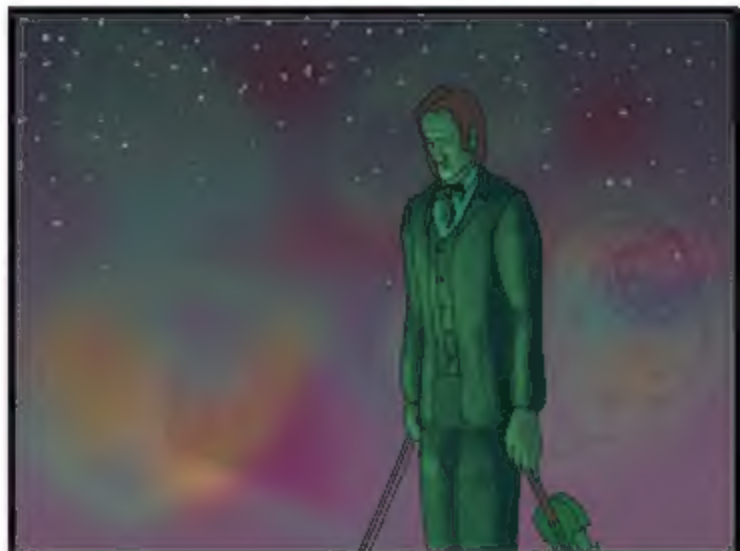
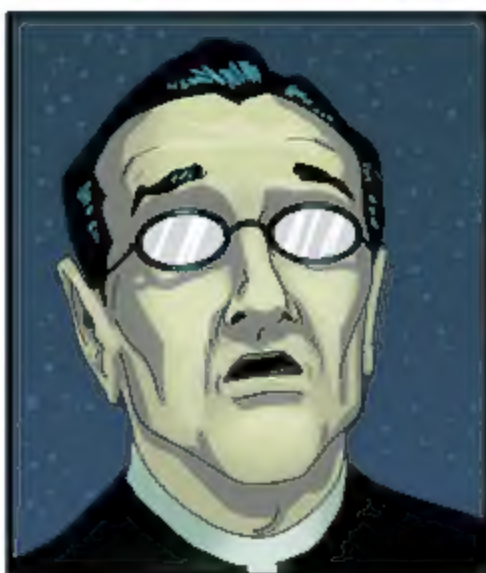
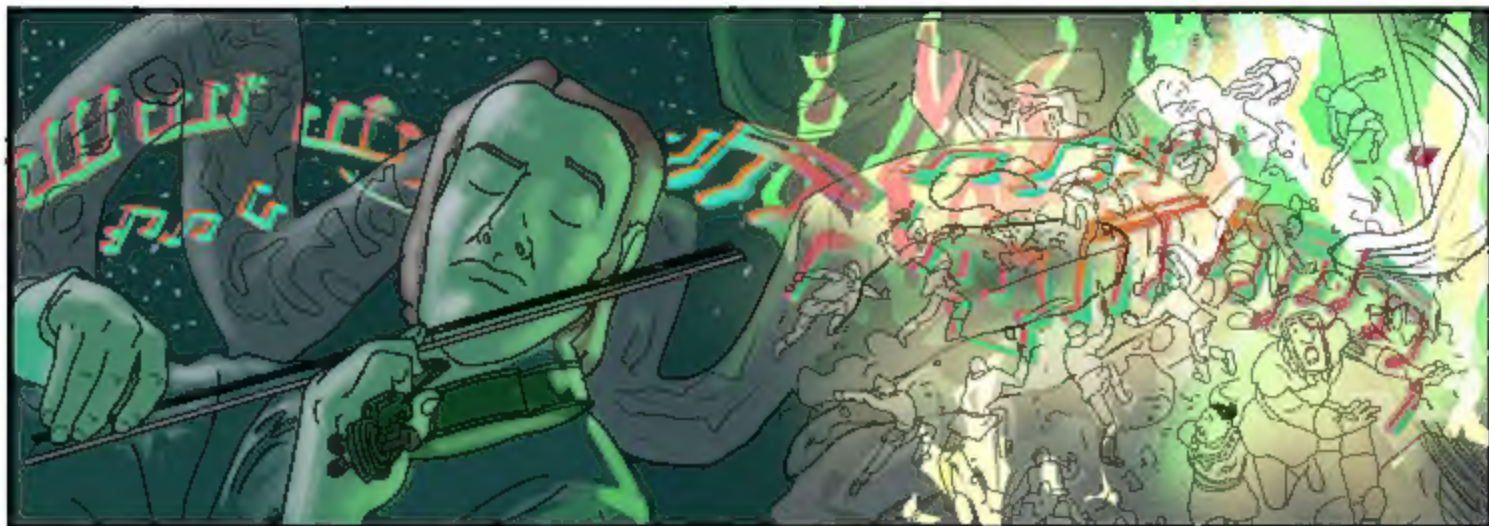


NO, DO NOT RUN.
I BEAR YOU NO
MALICE.

YOU BETRAYED THE
COUNT, YOU BETRAYED
YOUR FRIEND. WHY WOULD
I NOT EXPECT YOU TO
BETRAY ME?

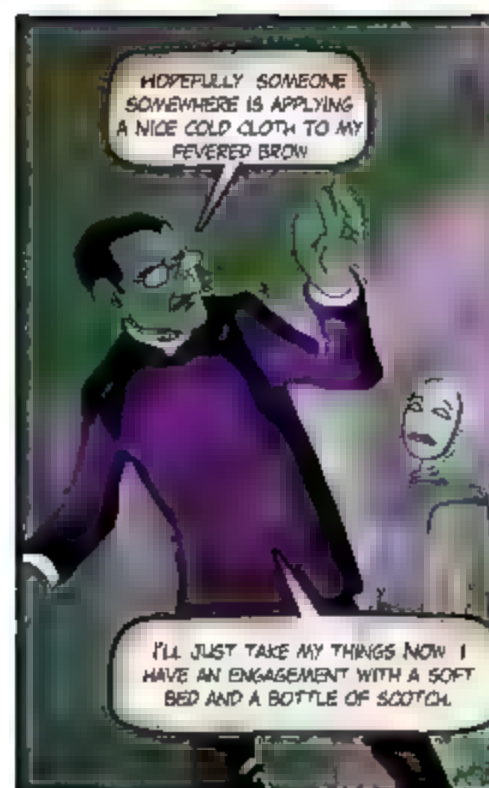
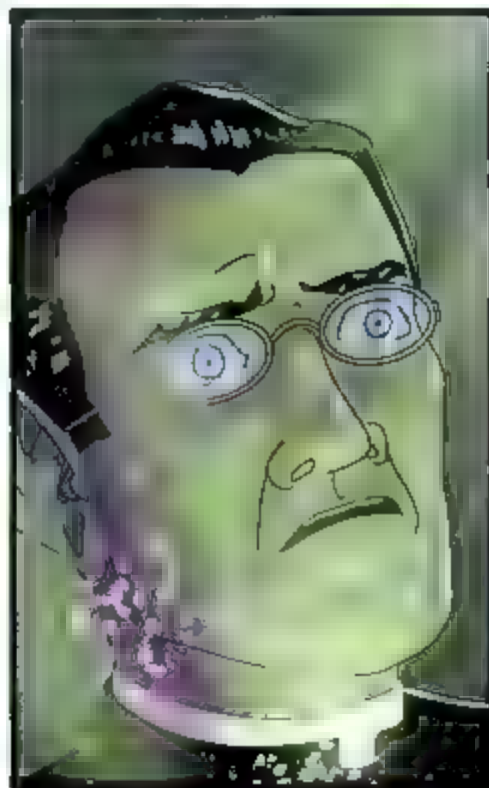


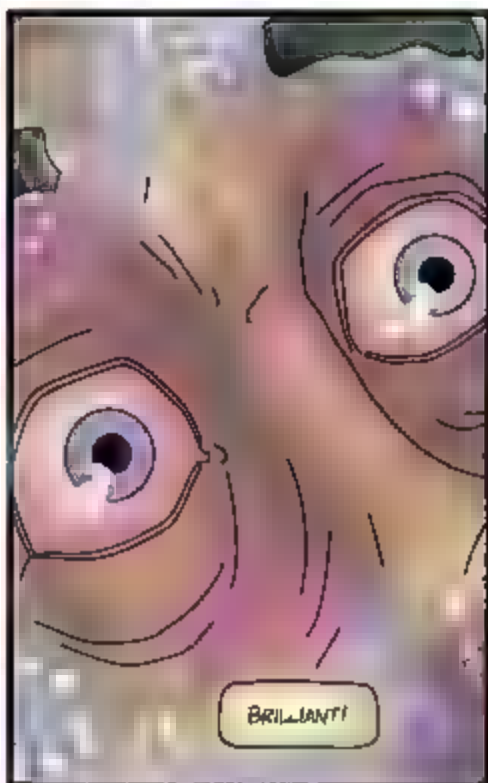
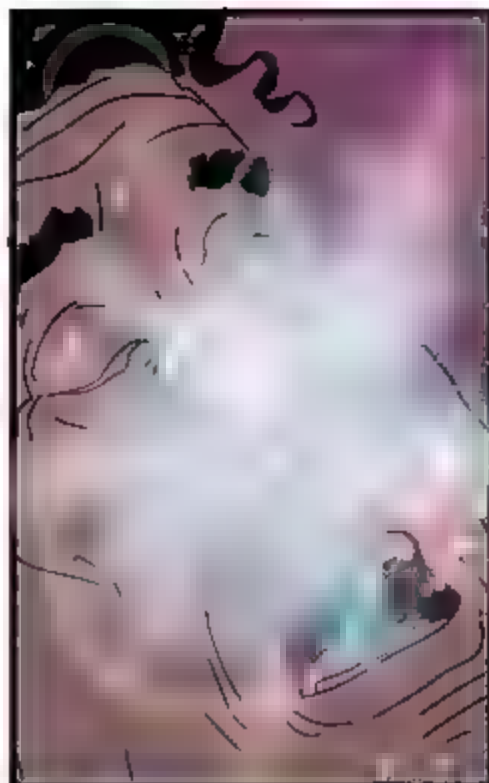












BRILLIANT!



Oh so amazingly brilliant!

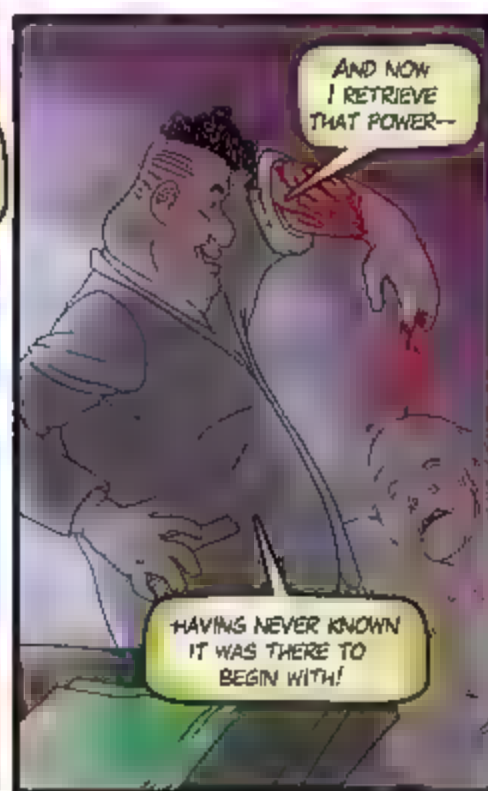
-Sir?

PARADOX, KRESKIN!
THE BEAUTY OF PARADOX!



THE FUTURE AFFECTS THE PAST AS MUCH AS VICE VERSA

MY POWERS HAVE BEEN CONSTRAINED FOR YEARS BY AN ACTION I ONLY JUST PERFORMED.



AND NOW I RETRIEVE THAT POWER--

HAVING NEVER KNOWN IT WAS THERE TO BEGIN WITH!

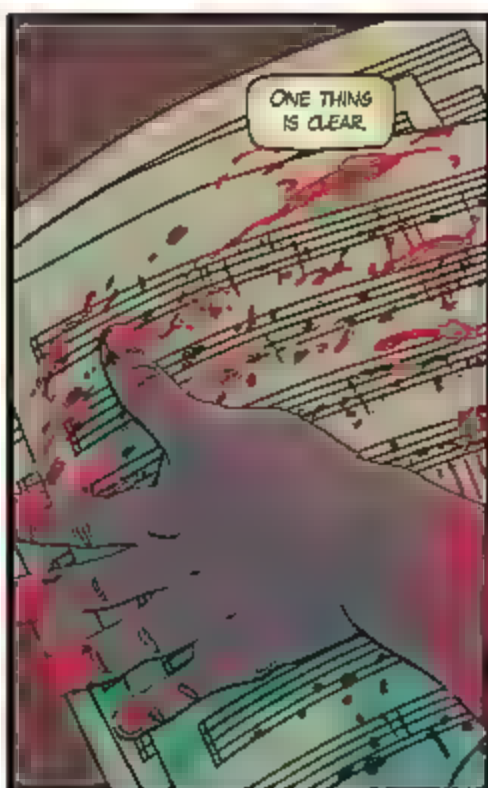


I NEED TO FIND OUT WHO THOSE PEOPLE THAT BOUND ME ARE, AND WHAT OBSTACLES THEY MAY PRESENT NOW

WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE END TO TAKE CHANCES.



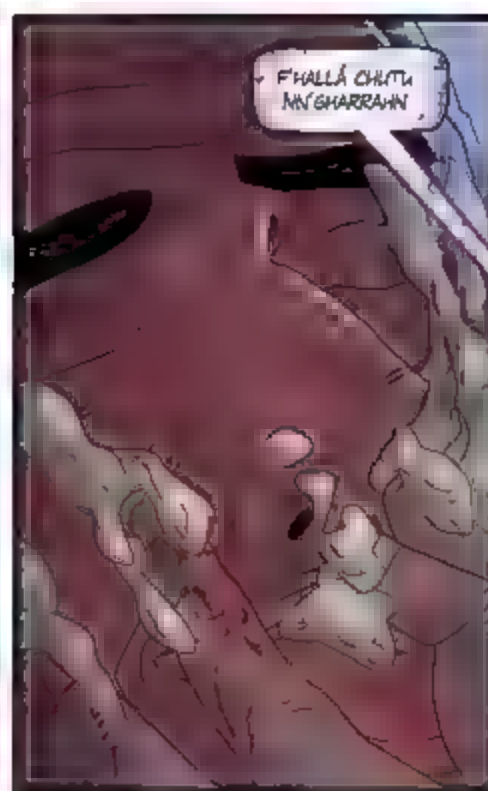
BUT I CAN CERTAINLY RESPECT WORTHY OPPONENTS.



ONE THING IS CLEAR



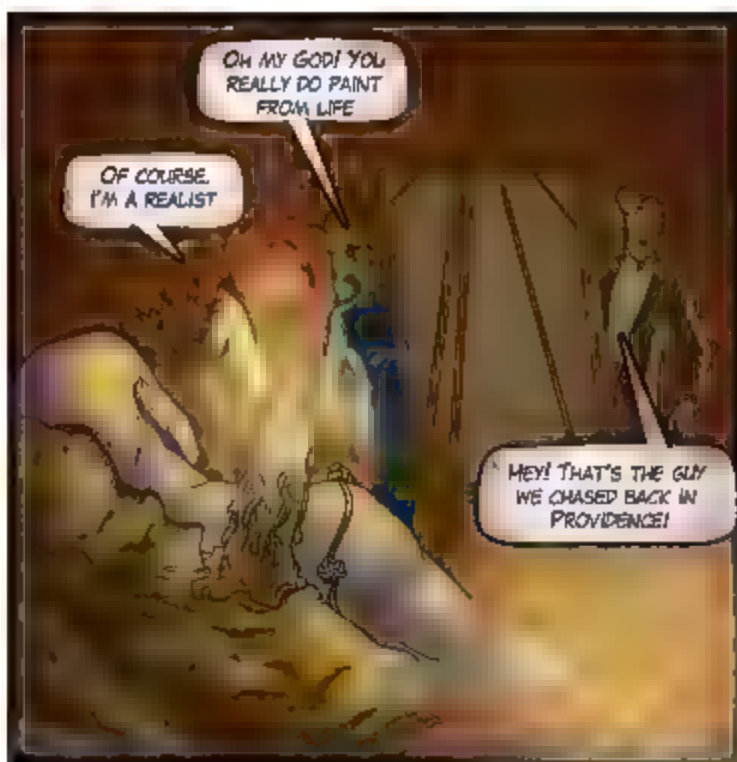
I'VE DEFINITELY UNDERESTIMATED THAT DAMNED LITTLE PRIEST





THE LAY-IN IS CRUCIAL TO THE STRUCTURE OF A PICTURE. I LIKE TO SOLVE ANY COMPOSITIONAL AND LIGHTING ISSUES UP FRONT RATHER THAN LATER.

WHEN! SMELLS LIKE A BAIT HOUSE IN HERE—



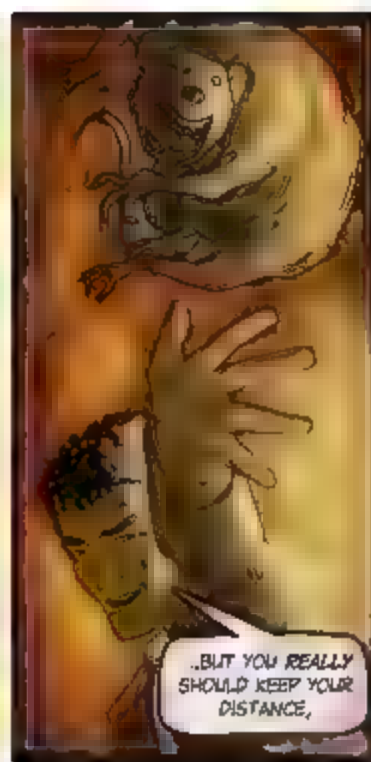
OH MY GOD! YOU REALLY DO PAINT FROM LIFE

OF COURSE. I'M A REALIST

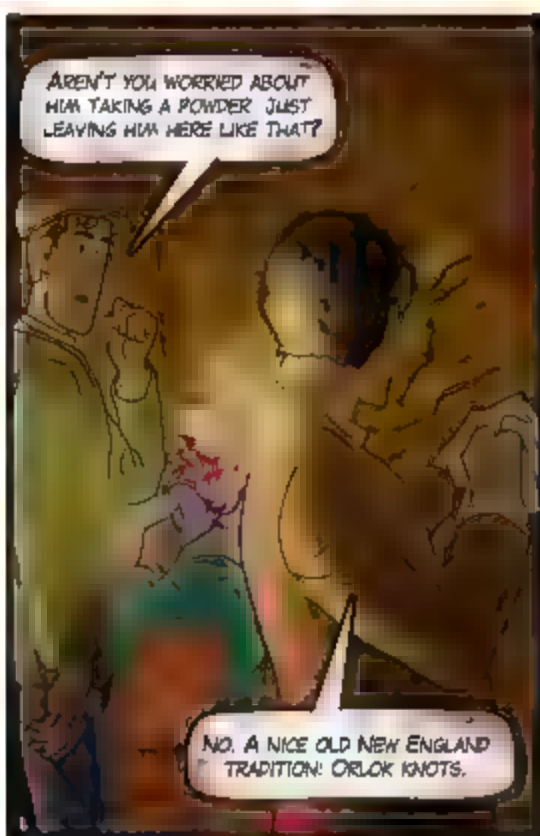
HEY! THAT'S THE GUY WE CHASED BACK IN PROVIDENCE!



THE SAME.



...BUT YOU REALLY SHOULD KEEP YOUR DISTANCE,

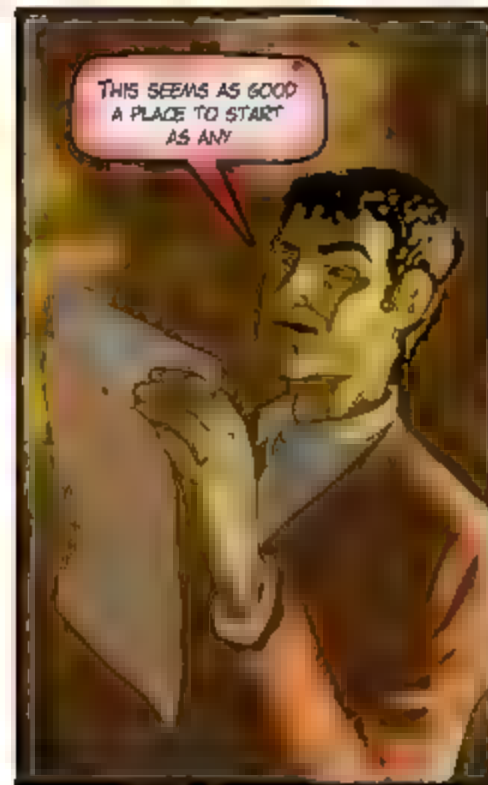
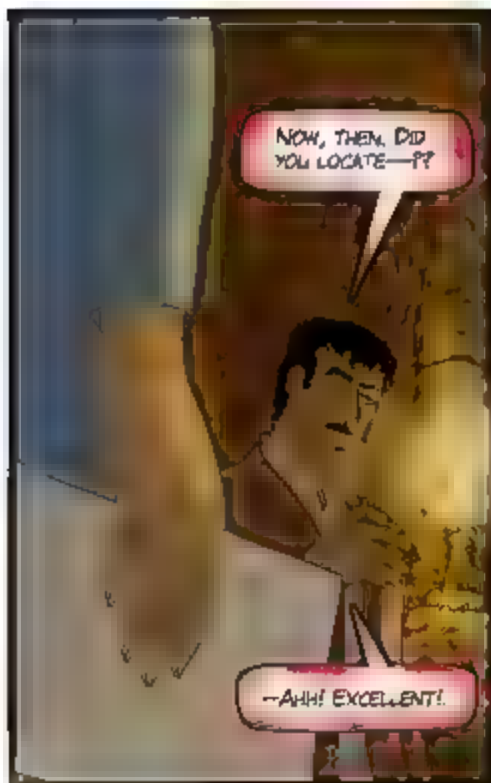


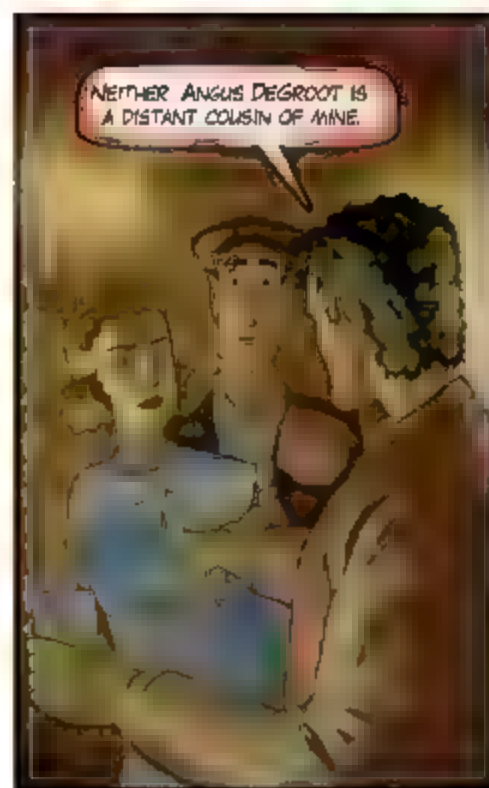
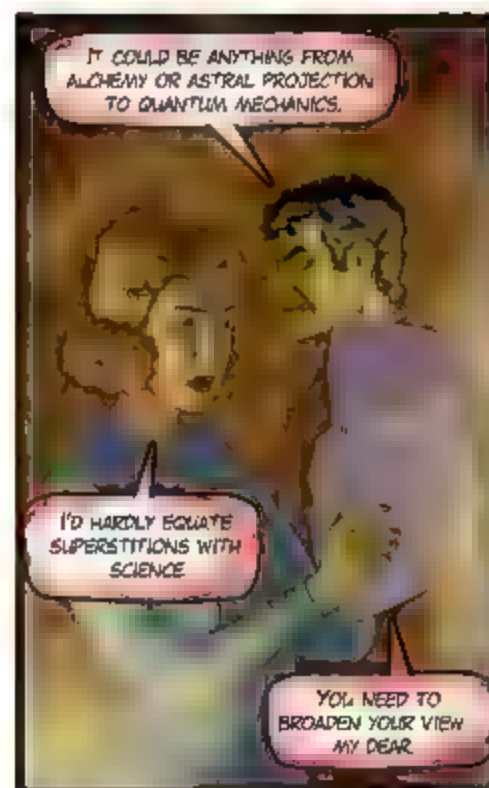
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM TAKING A POWDER JUST LEAVING HIM HERE LIKE THAT?

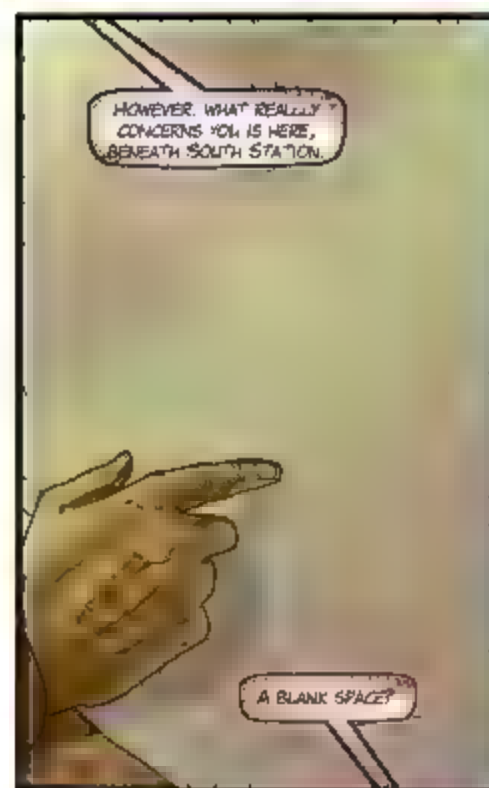
NO. A NICE OLD NEW ENGLAND TRADITION: ORLOK KNOTS.

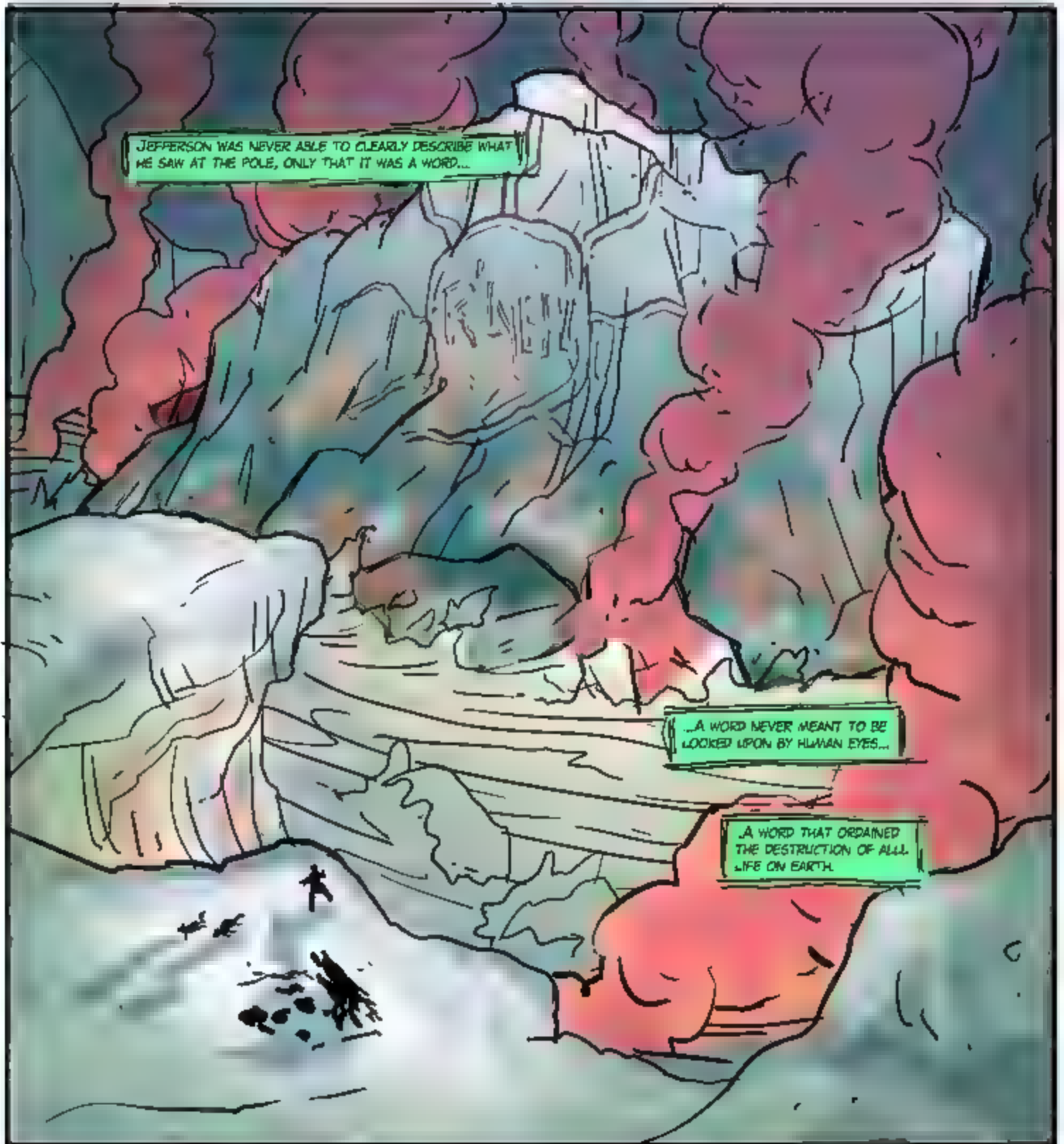


TIE THEM RIGHT AND THEY'LL BIND ALMOST ANYTHING BY JUST LAYING THEM ON TOP









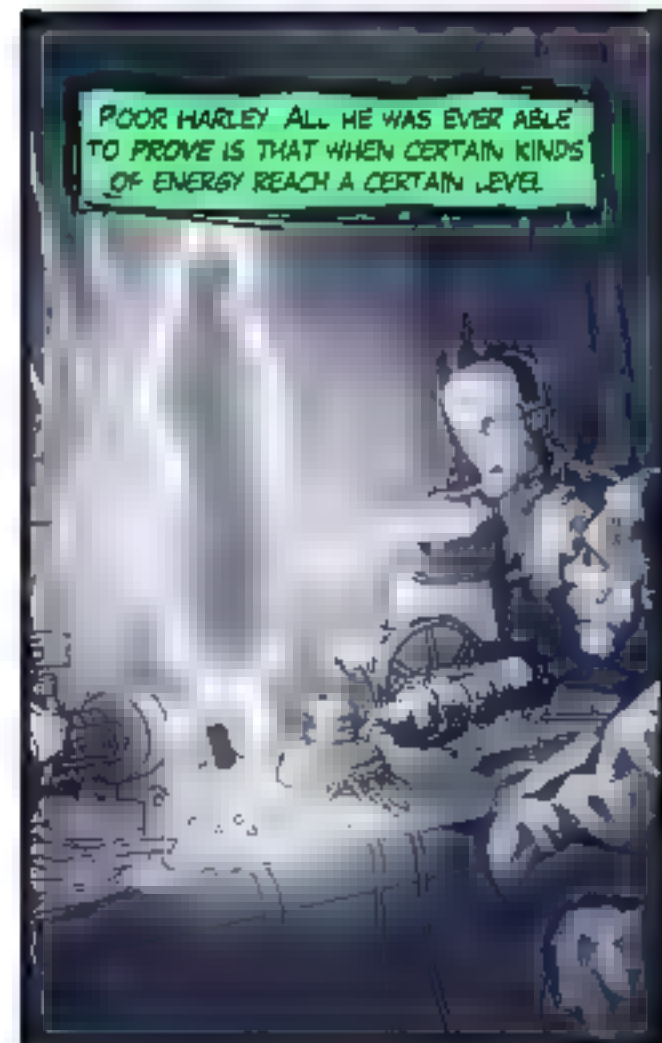


ALL HE RETAINED FROM HIS JOURNEY WAS THE ARTIFACT HE DEVOTED THE REST OF HIS LIFE TO DISCOVERING ITS ORIGIN.

IT EVENTUALLY FOUND ITS WAY INTO THE POSSESSION OF OUR MUTUAL ACQUAINTANCE, PROFESSOR HARLEY WARREN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA.



IT BECAME HIS OBSESSION AND HE EXPERIMENTED ON IT ENDLESSLY



POOR HARLEY ALL HE WAS EVER ABLE TO PROVE IS THAT WHEN CERTAIN KINDS OF ENERGY REACH A CERTAIN LEVEL



--THE PENDANT DISPERSES IT

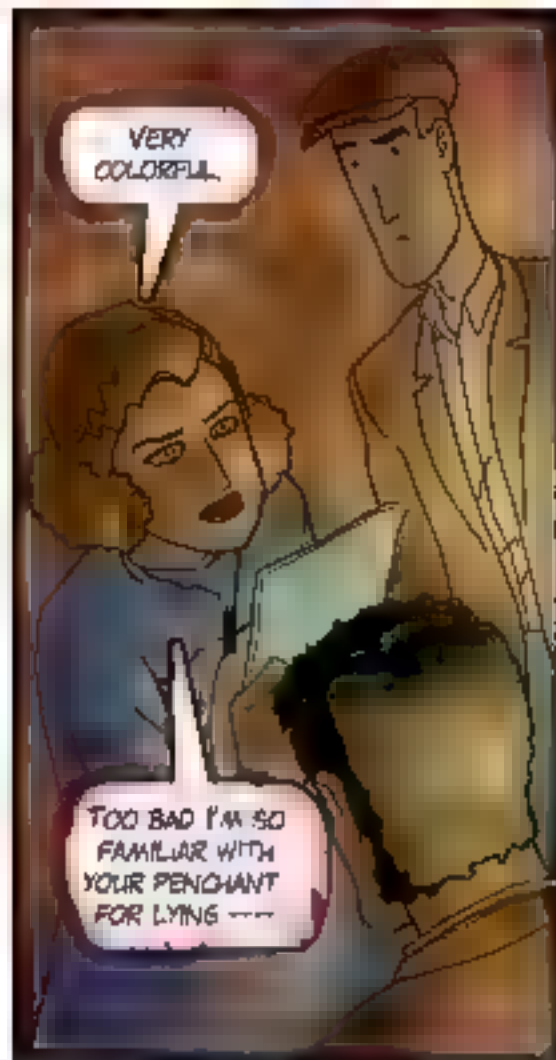
YES. A FORM OF SELF-PRESERVATION.



YOU SEE, HE CAME TO BELIEVE IT---THAT IT IS ACTUALLY AN ORGANISM, AN ALIEN ENTITY



AND ER, QUITE LIKELY PARASITIC IN NATURE.



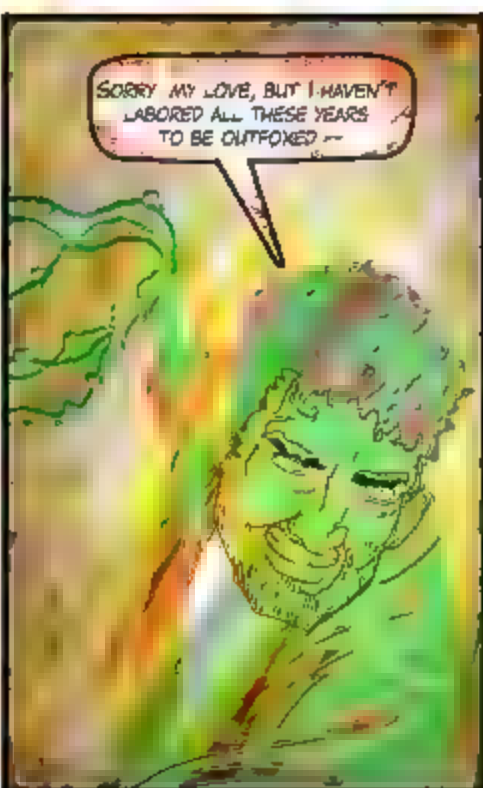
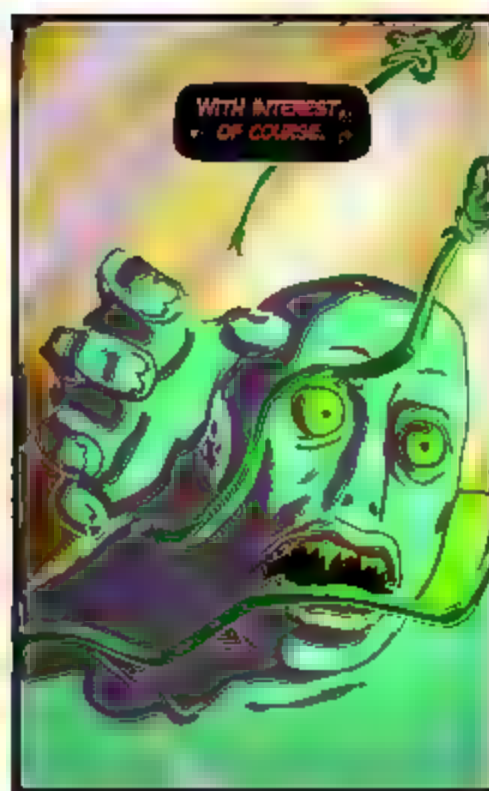
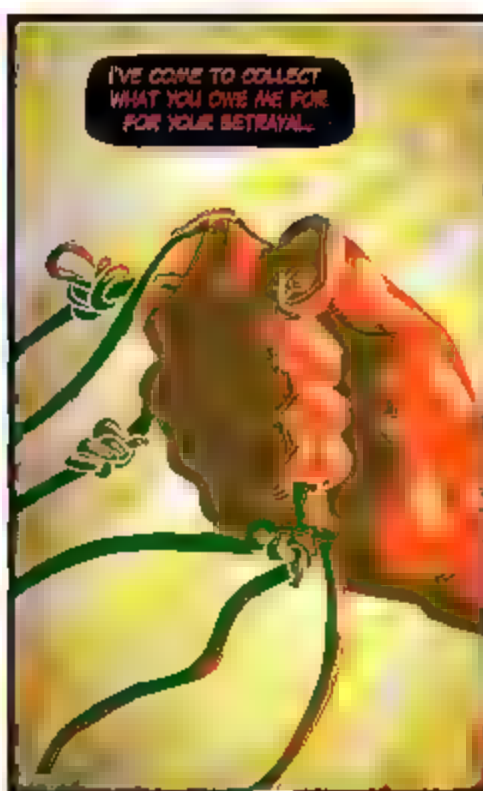
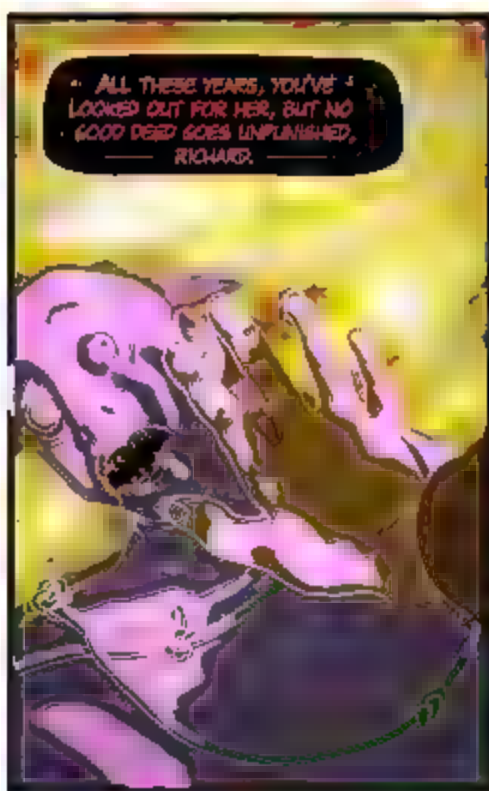
VERY COLORFUL.

TOO BAD I'M SO FAMILIAR WITH YOUR PENDANT FOR LYING ---



I HAV---LUCKLUCK! LUCK GARRRRGGG!

WHAT THE HECK?





WHAT!! NO!! I'LL EAT YOUR LIVER, YOU TRAITOROUS IN-BRED JACKANAPES!!!



I'LL PIERCE YOUR SOLE BONE



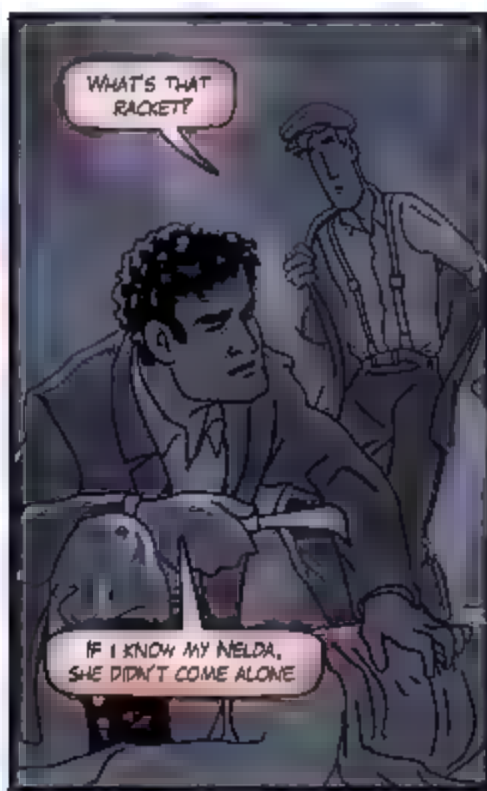
HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.



SHE'S USING NAN TO FIND US. THERE HAS TO BE A MARK--AND NELDA WAS VERY FOND OF LEGS.

TEAR YOUR COAT INTO STRIPS. THEN GATHER THOSE MAPS AND PHOTOS. JACKIE WILL NEED THEM.



WHAT'S THAT RACKET?

IF I KNOW MY NELDA, SHE DIDN'T COME ALONE



SOUNDS LIKE A PACK OF WILD DOGS

SECONDS COUNT

HUNGRY ONES.

WE GOT A PLAN ASIDES FROM RUNNING TO BEAT BILLY-HECK?



I SAID, WE GOT A



